

Application No.: 10/677075

Docket No.: TOW-045

REMARKS

Applicant amends claim 1. No new matter is added. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-6 are pending, of which claim 1 is independent. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define over the art of record.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,124,565 to Yoshida et al. (hereafter "Yoshida"). Applicant respectfully submits that the Yoshida reference does not disclose a transmitting antenna installed on an instrument panel of a vehicle or a framework surrounding the instrument panel, as required by amended claim 1.

The Yoshida reference discloses that an antenna 17 or 105 is disposed at the inner side of a cowl. See Figs. 3 and 7, and Col. 7, lines 19-20. In contrast, amended claim 1 requires that the antenna be installed on an instrument panel or a framework surrounding the instrument panel. Additionally, in the Yoshida reference, a signal transmitted by the antenna is unlikely to be received by an electronic key carried by a driver, because the distance between the antenna and the driver becomes too large for the electronic key to receive the signal. Accordingly, the Yoshida reference does not disclose a transmitting antenna installed on an instrument panel of a vehicle or a framework surrounding the instrument panel, as required by amended claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that the Yoshida reference further does not teach or suggest this limitation.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103**Claims 2-3**

Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable

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over the Yoshida reference further in view of United States Patent No. 6,078,293 to Yamamoto (hereafter "Yamamoto"). Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of the Yoshida reference and the Yamamoto reference does not teach or suggest a transmitting antenna installed on an instrument panel of a vehicle or a framework surrounding the instrument panel, as required by amended claim 1, which claims 2-3 depend.

As set forth above, the Yoshida reference does not teach or suggest a transmitting antenna installed on an instrument panel of a vehicle or a framework surrounding the instrument panel, as required by amended claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that the Yamamoto reference also does not teach or suggest this limitation.

The Yamamoto reference teaches an antenna 1A mounted inside of a switch main body 1C of a column switch 1 supporting a steering wheel 2. See Fig. 1 and Col. 2, lines 50-52. The switch main body 1C is not part of an instrument panel of a vehicle or a framework surrounding the instrument panel. Hence, the Yamamoto reference does not teach or suggest an antenna installed on an instrument panel of a vehicle or a framework surrounding the instrument panel, as required by amended claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of the Yoshida reference and the Yamamoto reference do not teach or suggest a transmitting antenna installed on an instrument panel of a vehicle or a framework surrounding the instrument panel, as required by amended claim 1. Applicant notes that dependent claims 2-3 also recite separate patentable subject matter. As such, for this and the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner reconsiders and withdraws the rejection of claims 2-3.

Claims 4-6

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Yoshida reference further in view of United States Patent No. 4,132,994

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to Caldwell (hereafter "Caldwell"). Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of the Yoshida reference and the Yamamoto reference does not teach or suggest a transmitting antenna installed on an instrument panel of a vehicle or a framework surrounding the instrument panel, as required by amended claim 1, which claims 4-6 depend.

As set forth above, the Yoshida reference does not teach or suggest a transmitting antenna installed on an instrument panel of a vehicle or a framework surrounding the instrument panel, as required by amended claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that the Caldwell reference also does not teach or suggest this limitation.

The Caldwell reference teaches a radio antenna 22 mounted along the edge of a windshield 18. See Fig. 1 and corresponding text. However, the Caldwell reference does not teach or suggest a transmitting antenna installed on an instrument panel of a vehicle or a framework surrounding the instrument panel, as required by amended claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of the Yoshida reference and the Caldwell reference do not teach or suggest a transmitting antenna installed on an instrument panel of a vehicle or a framework surrounding the instrument panel, as required by amended claim 1. Applicant notes that dependent claims 4-6 also recite separate patentable subject matter. As such, for this and the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner reconsiders and withdraws the rejection of claims 4-6.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this statement. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. TOW-045 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 3, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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